

WROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Finance and General Purposes Committee

20th November 2023

World Aids Day – 1st December 2023

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Taking place annually on December 1, World AIDS Day is a time to stand up for those impacted by HIV, past and present, and call for a better future. People wear the iconic red ribbon to show support, to raise awareness and to show that they are part of a community that shows solidarity with people living with HIV while remembering lives lost.
- 1.2 The UK government has set a goal of ending HIV transmissions by 2030. This is possible, but not without continued fight for political leadership, investment and a commitment to ending stigma and injustice.
- 1.3 In the UK, more than 105,000 people are living with HIV. Globally, an estimated 38 million people live with the virus. More than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS related illnesses over the past 40 years, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history.
- 1.4 Medical advances mean people with HIV in the UK can expect a long and healthy life and that we have the tools to stop HIV transmissions for good. But HIV continues to be highly stigmatised and misunderstood. At National AIDS Trust, the UK's HIV rights charity, we are contacted weekly by people experiencing discrimination because of HIV, including in work, education, housing and even healthcare.
- 1.5 World AIDS Day exists to shine a light on the real experiences of people living with HIV today, while celebrating the strength, resilience and diversity of the communities most affected. It is a moment to inspire the leadership needed to create a future where HIV doesn't stand in the way of anyone's life. It celebrates the strength, resilience and diversity of the HIV community, while honouring the activists and campaigners who've driven change since the 1980s.
- 1.6 National AIDS Trust is the UK's HIV rights charity. It works to stop HIV from standing in the way of health, dignity and equality, and to end new HIV transmissions.

2.0 Report Details

- 2.1 The National AIDS Trust will send a free pack of 100 fabric red ribbons with a display/collection box, and/or ready-made activities materials. NB: they ask that these are ordered by 12 noon on Monday 27 November to allow for any postage delays.
- 2.2 In 2022, there were 4,040 HIV diagnoses in the UK excluding Northern Ireland (Northern Ireland data for 2022 were not available). This was a 19% rise from 3,398 in 2021 and a 21% rise from 3,335 in 2020.

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- 2.3 For statistics about HIV in the UK, including how many people are currently living with HIV, see here: <https://www.tht.org.uk/hiv-and-sexual-health/about-hiv/hiv-statistics#:~:text=The%20more%20recent%20estimate%20for,Scotland%20and%2060%20in%20Wales>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hiv-annual-data-tables/hiv-testing-prep-new-hiv-diagnoses-and-care-outcomes-for-people-accessing-hiv-services-2023-report>
- 2.4 This report does not intend to copy & paste statistics which you can read for yourself by following the links above & below. The important points to note are that some groups are more disproportionately affected than others, and also that there are large groups of people who are likely to be diagnosed late, with an estimated 4,400 people living with undiagnosed HIV in England. Those diagnosed at a late stage in England in 2021, were 5 times more likely to die (deaths due to all causes among people with HIV) within a year of their diagnosis, compared to those who were diagnosed promptly.
- 2.5 Due to successful treatment, which ensures people with HIV have long healthy lives, half of people with diagnosed HIV were aged 50 years or over in 2022 compared to 27% in 2012. **Overall, 98% (86,178 of 88,116) of people living with diagnosed HIV in England in 2022 (with a reported viral load) were virally suppressed and therefore unable to pass on the virus to sexual partners.**
- 2.6 You will note from the conclusion at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hiv-annual-data-tables/hiv-testing-prep-new-hiv-diagnoses-and-care-outcomes-for-people-accessing-hiv-services-2023-report#conclusion>
that 2022 saw improvements in HIV testing and PrEP provision but inequalities persist, particularly in relation to ethnicity and gender and that HIV testing levels among heterosexual men and women remained lower than those observed in 2019 and women were most likely to not be offered and to decline a test.
- 2.7 What does this mean for WPC? This means it is vitally important to help raise awareness of the importance of testing and early diagnosis, and to show support for those living with Aids & HIV in order to reduce the stigma & discrimination.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 **Help increase awareness of Aids & HIV and end the stigma & discrimination by ordering a free pack of 100 fabric red ribbons from The National AIDS Trust on the understanding that by ordering free resources from National AIDS Trust – all funds raised/ donations received (a minimum of £15 to cover costs) must be returned to National AIDS Trust:**
<https://act.nat.org.uk/order-your-red-ribbons-and-fundraising-materials?source=widget>
- 3.2 **Repost or share SBC's fb posts and/ or eg: the National Aids Trust website to raise awareness of where people can access information, help & support.**